



State Capitol | Lansing, Michigan 48913  
PH (517) 373.0793 | FAX (517) 373.5607  
[www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/george/](http://www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/george/)

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Contact: Sherry Sofia  
517-373-0793

## **Legislation to prohibit diploma mills**

**LANSING** – The Senate Education Committee today passed a bill that would keep “diploma mills” from operating within the State of Michigan, said Sen. Tom George, R-Texas Township.

Senate Bill 136, introduced by George, would create the Authentic Credentials in Education Act. Specifically, the bill would prohibit a person from knowingly issuing or manufacturing a false academic credential. If a person violates this provision, they could be assessed a fine of \$20,000.

“This legislation is aimed at internet-based diploma mills that grant degrees for a fee without requiring any academic work,” George said. “It will help protect the integrity of college degrees earned the old-fashioned way – through study – and it will help protect employers from people presenting fraudulent credentials.”

In addition, the legislation would prohibit an individual from knowingly using a false academic credential to obtain employment; to obtain a promotion or higher compensation in employment; to obtain admission to a qualified institution; or in connection with any loan, business, trade, profession, or occupation. Anyone found in violation of this provision could be assessed a fine of \$1000.

SB 136 now goes before the full Senate for consideration.

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